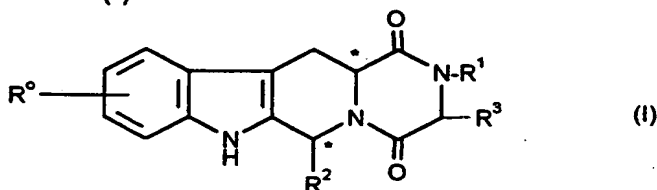


ABSTRACT**TETRACYCLIC DERIVATIVES, PROCESS OF PREPARATION AND USE**

5 A compound of formula (I)

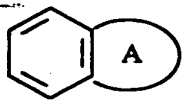


and salts and solvates thereof, in which:

R⁰ represents hydrogen, halogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

10 R¹ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, haloC₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₈cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈cycloalkylC₁₋₃alkyl, arylC₁₋₃alkyl or heteroarylC₁₋₃alkyl;

R² represents an optionally substituted monocyclic aromatic ring selected from benzene, thiophene, furan and pyridine or an optionally substituted bicyclic ring



15 [] attached to the rest of the molecule via one of the benzene ring carbon atoms and wherein the fused ring A is a 5- or 6-membered ring which may be saturated or partially or fully unsaturated and comprises carbon atoms and optionally one or two heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen; and

20 R³ represents hydrogen or C₁₋₃ alkyl, or R¹ and R³ together represent a 3- or 4-membered alkyl or alkenyl chain.

25 A compound of formula (I) is a potent and selective inhibitor of cyclic guanosine 3', 5'-monophosphate specific phosphodiesterase (cGMP specific PDE) having a utility in a variety of therapeutic areas where such inhibition is beneficial, including the treatment of cardiovascular disorders.